

PROPOSITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

— FOR THE —

Ninth Annual Convention of the *Scientific Labor Party* S. L. P.,

— TO BE HELD —

== JULY 4th, 1896. ==

Proposition of Section Rockville, Conn.

In regard to the question of reconciliation we are of the opinion that wherever a split exists in the party organization, successful agitation becomes impossible and the Section therefore proposes :

Since there are neither questions of tactics nor of principle dividing us, the location of the National Executive Committee being the only point of issue, Section Rockville proposes that the convention discuss exhaustively, the question whether it would not contribute to the greater prosperity of the party, if for once the experiment was made to place the seat of the National Executive Committee elsewhere ; the field of agitation of the New York comrades would not be curtailed one iota.

Resolutions of Section New Britain, Conn.

1. *Resolved*, that the National Convention advise the National Executive Committee to invite comrade Bebel or Auer from Germany or some comrade from Italy, for an agitation tour in the United States, the question as to whether a German or an Italian tour is at present a greater necessity and also as to which of the two can at present be more conveniently arranged, to be left with the said Executive Committee.

2. *Resolved*, that the National Convention endorses the plan of starting a *Daily People* during the coming National campaign.

Propositions of Section Baltimore, Md.

1. The *Vorwaerts*, *People* and *Labor* to be taken over by the party.
2. The editors of the party organs to be elected by the convention and the party respectively and to be suspended when necessary by the National Executive Committee.
3. The Convention to elect a Press Committee, which shall decide whether articles rejected by the editors shall find space in the party press or not.
4. The National Secretary to be elected by the Convention and to be suspended if need be, by the Sections at the seat of the National Executive Committee.
5. The party dues to be fixed at 5 cents.
6. The National Secretary to publish at least once every quarter in the party organs the list of Sections and their organizers.
7. The due cards to be so arranged, that the dues are collected weekly.
8. The plank demanding the abolition of the United States Senate to be re-inserted in the platform.

Propositions of Section Fitchburg, Mass.

Article III, Sec. 4 of the constitution to be changed so as to read : "It shall be the duty of the National Executive Committee to submit to a general vote of the party any propositions made by a Section and supported by 3 Sections in three different States" ; also under :

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Article IV: The party elects by general vote a Press Committee, which shall decide in case of any differences with the National Executive Committee in regard to articles and communications sent by Sections or members; such decision to be binding upon both parties of a controversy. The seat of the National Executive Committee and that of the Press Committee to be in two different States.

Resolutions of Jewish Section Boston, Mass.

1. *Whereas*, the Jewish Socialist Press plays a great part in the Socialist movement in this country, and

Whereas, according to the decision of the late Board of Arbitration, the editor of the *Arbeiter-Zeitung* will be elected by the National Executive Committee, together with a committee of the Publishing Association, and

Whereas, such election will in reality be left to the Publishing Association only, as the National Executive Committee does not understand the language in which those papers are written and consequently are incapable to judge about the qualities of an editor, and

Whereas, the *Abend-Blatt* is left entirely to the discretion of the Publishing Association, ignoring the fact that it is the Jewish Socialists outside of that association, who are the main supporters of that paper, and should according to the principles of Socialism, have a voice in conducting the same,

Resolved, that we, the Jewish Section of Boston, recommend to the convention, that the editors of the *Abend-Blatt* and *Arbeiter-Zeitung*, be elected by the Publishing Association in conjunction with delegates representing the Jewish Sections of the S. L. P.

2. *Whereas*, the principles of the Social-Democracy require impartiality, and

Whereas, the National Executive Committee, a body which stands at the head of the party, should by its actions show examples of that spirit, but acted contrary by allowing resolutions to be printed in the *People*, wherein energetic and true members of our party were insulted and refused by an illogical answer to print a response to said resolutions, be it

Resolved, that we, the Jewish Section of the S. L. P. of Boston, protest against such action and ask the convention to do the same.

3. *Whereas*, it has lately occurred that a tireless and energetic comrade has been suspended from the party by a vote of 18 against 17, and

Whereas, in our belief this was made use of because there is no provision in our constitution governing the rule of suspension, be it

Resolved, that we, the Jewish Section of the S. L. P. of Boston, recommend to the convention, that a provision regarding suspension of members be inserted in our constitution, requiring a two-third majority as well as for expelling.

4. *Whereas*, our constitution provides, that in case of dissatisfaction with the decision of the National Board of Grievance, an appeal can be taken to the entire membership of the party, and

Whereas, such practice cannot lead to good results, on account of comrades of other States, who, not being acquainted with the entire case, cannot take so keen an interest as would be desired, be it

Resolved, that we, the Jewish Section of the S. L. P. of Boston, recommend that in matters of a local character, an appeal from the decision of the National Board of Grievance be made to the members of the State only.

5. *Resolved*, that we, the Jewish Section of the S. L. P. of Boston, recommend that the National conventions of the party take place every two years, instead of every four years.

Resolutions of Section Passaic County, N. J.

1. *Whereas*, we have experienced the evils of the present disorganized manner in which the speakers of the party are distributed throughout the country, therefore be it

Resolved, that we strongly recommend, that lecture circuits be organized in different parts of the country, covering a certain area of miles, the speakers to follow around the circuit and the whole to be under the direct supervision of the National Executive Committee.

2. *Whereas*, it is a well known fact that nearly every Section of the party has a different method or system of admitting new members, some in fact being so lax in system as to have hardly any system at all, therefore be it

Resolved, that we urge the necessity of having a uniform method or system established as soon as possible.

3. *Whereas*, it is very important that our members should understand the principles of Socialism, and

Whereas, this can only be brought about by an interchange of thought, therefore be it

Resolved, that we recommend that the National Convention of the S. L. P. be requested to have prepared a pamphlet, which shall explain and elucidate the social and political demands of our platform, and be it further

Resolved, that the said pamphlet should be used as a means of propaganda.

4. *Whereas*, the present method of selecting the nominees of the party for the office of President and Vice-President by the votes of the delegates present at the National Convention does not seem to truly represent the socialistic principle of the people themselves making the nomination, and

Whereas, this method has always been the means of causing great dissatisfaction and dissensions in the ranks of the other political parties, we therefore deem it wise to change this method and make it more broad, in fact more socialistic, not that we expect any dissatisfaction or dissensions in our own ranks at the present time, but with an eye to the future when such might occur, therefore be it

Resolved, that we recommend the delegates to select candidates for the nominations, whose names shall then be submitted to the party for a general vote, the result to decide who the nominees shall be. We also urge the delegates to use the greatest care in selecting eligible candidates.

Proposition of Section New Bedford, Mass.

The National Convention to take action recommending to all Sections of the S. L. P., to arrange for festivals in favor of the *Daily People* fund. All labor organizations sharing our principles or being friendly toward the same, to be invited to participate.

The National Executive Committee to issue a call for this purpose, setting forth the importance of a *Daily People* and to transmit said call to all Sections and progressive labor organizations of the country.

Proposition of Section West Hoboken, N. J.

The due cards to be abolished and in their stead introduce membership books with space for the receipt for dues, such books to contain also the platform and constitution of the party.

Propositions of Section Gloversville, N. Y.

1. The designation of Sections according to race and nationality to be abolished.

REASON.—We are of the opinion that this will promote a better agitation in the interest of the S. L. P. and make the same more conscious of its aim.

2. The seat of the National Executive Committee as well as its election, to be submitted to the Sections for a general vote.

REASONS.—This is to prevent the causes of contentions within the party.

Resolution and Proposition of Section Lake View, Chicago

Whereas, the Socialist Labor Party holds this year's National Convention in a place, which, though selected by general vote, is situated in a very unfavorable location as regards general intercourse and its topography (Bodenbeschaffenheit), and

Historical Wisconsin

Whereas, furthermore by a general vote in the various States and Territories it always comes about, that only that place is victorious, where the Socialist Labor Party has the most members; it follows that against such a circumstance, the votes of the States less populated by Socialists are powerless, and

Whereas, most labor organizations of the old and new world at their conventions and through their delegates do decide in what place or State the next convention is to be held, therefore be it

Resolved, that Section Lake View, Chicago, Ill., recommends to the National Convention of the S. L. P., to be convened on July 4th, the adoption of the following proposition:

The representatives of the Socialist Labor Party, U. S. A., in convention assembled, resolve, to themselves decide the place of the next convention, (instead of by a general vote as it used to be) by a vote according to States and Territories; the Section located at the place selected to attend to all the work necessary for the next convention.

Proposition of Section Camden, N. J.

Section Camden proposes to give to planks 2 and 3 of the "Social Demands" our platform, the following form:

Plank 2.) The United States shall obtain possession of the railroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones and all other means of public transportation and communication; the employees to operate the same co-operatively under control of the federal government and to elect their own superior officers, but no employee shall be discharged for political reasons.

Plank 3.) The municipalities shall obtain possession of the local railroads, ferries, water works, gas works, electric plants and all industries requiring municipal franchises; the employees to operate the same co-operatively under control of the municipal administration and to elect their own superior officers, but no employees shall be discharged for political reasons.

Proposition of Section Buffalo, N. Y.

The National Executive Committee to grant but one charter to any city or town; the local organizations to be divided and organized according to language or political boundaries.

Propositions of Section New York.

1. The National Convention to advise the Sections to join the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance wherever practicable.
2. To insert into the constitution a clause pledging the members of the party to the recognition of the class struggle.

Propositions of Section New Haven, Conn.

The convention to discuss the question of the so-called Socialist Press of the country.

1. Is it advisable for the party and the present owners of these papers to put them under the control of the party?
2. Would it benefit our agitation if the Socialist Press was consolidated?
3. All party papers are asked to offer their opinion on this question and reserve for the use of the delegates sufficient copies containing such opinion.
4. All Socialist papers to send free of charge, to the delegates of the National Convention during the session, one copy each.
5. All national Socialist publication to send free of charge to each State organizer one copy regularly.
6. The National Executive Committee to furnish free of charge to all members and Sections constitutions and due cards.
7. The National Executive Committee to publish quarterly a report of the situation and list of Sections.

